



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

Hart-Miller Island

South Cell Restoration Project

Dredged Material Management Plan

Public Scoping Meeting Information Sheet

Hart-Miller Island

Beginning in 2002, the South Cell of Hart-Miller Island will be converted from a dredged material containment facility to a habitat restoration area. The project will create more than 100 acres of shorebird habitat, more than 100 acres of upland grasses, a bird breeding island, and a permanent pond. The project is the result of thorough analysis by Federal and State agencies and project partners and is scheduled to begin construction in August of 2002.

Background

- During placement activities at Hart-Miller Island since the site was opened, the wet dredged material has attracted more than 200 species of birds, making it one of the Chesapeake Bay's premier shorebird habitat sites.
- Upon closure of the South Cell in 1990, the material dried and cracked and became invaded by *Phragmites*, (an invasive plant species) making the habitat less desirable for certain shorebirds.
- The goal of the project is to re-water the South Cell, bringing the shorebirds and other species back to the southern section of the island.

Restoration Components

The project will create:

- 180 acres of mudflats, designed to mimic the natural tidal cycles and coincide with the spring and fall shorebird migrations.
- 110 acres of upland grasses, designed to provide songbird habitat.
- 1 acre of tidal wetlands.
- 2 ponds designed to help re-water the site and provide habitat for fish.
- 1 acre of Least tern nesting island habitat, protected from predators by the permanent pond.

Why Shorebird Restoration?

- The South Cell provides 300 protected acres that can be managed for wildlife habitat in the upper Chesapeake Bay, an area that is very short of habitat.
- The wet dredged material has proven to be excellent bird habitat. When dry, these benefits are lost.
- The project uses lessons learned over the 18-year life of the project.
- The project is based on extensive public outreach and inter-agency coordination.
- The project is consistent with long-term recreational goals, such as bird watching and other passive recreational uses.